



La Barranca Fire Update

Date: June 4, 2006, 8 a.m.

La Barranca Fire Contact Numbers: 928-204-6538, 928-606-7490, 928-606-7561, 928-606-7578
Website: www.nazteam.com or www.az211.gov

Fire Name: La Barranca Fire

Time/Date Started: Thursday, June 1, 2006 – 2 p.m.

Location: Oak Creek Village; The La Barranca Fire started on La Barranca Drive in the Village of Oak Creek, south of Sedona and east of Highway 179. The fire started on private property and moved onto the Red Rock Ranger District of the Coconino National Forest. It burned into the Munds Mountain Wilderness. It is about 6 miles south of Sedona.

Cause: Human-caused. The La Barranca Fire was caused by a fence company that was grinding on a metal fence post on private property.

Fuels: Grass, brush, pinyon-juniper woodland

Size: Total Size – 836 acres

% Contained: 90 %

Estimated Containment Date: 6 p.m., June 5

Resources Committed: 3 Type 1 crews (hotshot crews), 2 Type 2 crews, 2 helicopters (1 medium, 1 light), 5 engines, 3 water tenders. Total personnel = approx. 250 personnel assigned

Estimated Cost to Date: \$1,200,000

Predicted Weather: Hot and dry conditions are expected to continue well into next week. Today, temperatures could exceed 100 degrees.

Structures:

Structures have been lost:

- 1 primary residence destroyed

- 1 partially-damaged residence

- 1 guest house/shop destroyed

- 3 outbuildings destroyed

From Estate Circle up canyon in the fire area, 158 total structures were saved.

Evacuations: The evacuation order for the Pine Valley subdivision was lifted yesterday at noon. Residents were allowed to return to their homes. The Yavapai County Sheriff's Department is managing access into the area until 7 p.m. today when all road closures will be lifted. Non-residents are asked to limit their use of the area given safety concerns such as continued heavy use by firefighters, equipment and rehabilitation workers.

Summary: Sedona, Oak Creek Canyon and the surrounding areas are open and are not being impacted by the La Barranca Fire. Smoke impact is minimal. Today, firefighters will continue to mop up and patrol. Fire resources that are no longer needed are being released from the fire.

The La Barranca Fire serves to highlight the extreme fire conditions that exist statewide this year and the importance of everyone being extra careful with fire. The Coconino National Forest is implementing additional fire restrictions beginning at 8 a.m. tomorrow. (See below for detailed information.) To learn more about making private property more defensible against fire, please visit www.firewise.org.

Closures:

Trails closed – Woods Canyon, Jacks Canyon, Hot Loop, Munds Mountain

Roads closed – The section of Schnebly Hill Road from I-17 to the gate at Merry-Go-Round

At 7 p.m. today, road closures will be lifted. Three trails will remain closed: Jacks Canyon, Hot Loop and Munds Mountain.

Restrictions: As fire danger increases, additional fire restrictions go into effect on the Coconino National Forest Monday, June 5, 2006, at 8 a.m., prohibiting activities which could cause a wildfire.

- Campfires—including charcoal fires—are prohibited in all areas, including developed campgrounds. Pressurized liquid or gas stoves, lanterns and heaters are allowed.
- Operating a chainsaw is prohibited between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m. These restrictions apply to both personal use with a firewood permit and commercial operations.

Also prohibited:

- Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, or developed recreation site.
- Welding.
- Using an explosive.
- Operating any internal or external combustion engine without a spark arrester.
- Operating a motor vehicle off National Forest System roads, except when parking in an area cleared of vegetation, and except in the Cinder Hills Off-Highway Vehicle Area north of Flagstaff.
- Fireworks are always prohibited on national forest lands.

Violations are punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000, or imprisonment for not more than six months, or both. These restrictions will remain in place until enough precipitation falls to decrease fire danger. For further information about fire restrictions on the Coconino National Forest, visit www.coconinoforest.us or call 928-527-3600. The latest fire restriction information on public lands across Arizona can be found at www.azfireinfo.com and <http://gacc.nifc.gov/swcc/> or by calling toll-free 1-877-864-6985.

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